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PRIZE WINNERS IN THE CONVENTIONAL CLASS  
OF DECORATION

—Courtesy Burley & Company

## Prize Winners of the Ceramic Exhibition

THE annual national exhibition of decorated china in the show rooms of Burley & Company during the latter part of September attracted attention from all quarters as the ceramic event of the year. So many lovely inspirations were recorded upon the graceful shapes of bowls, pitchers, trays and plates that it must have required a most discriminating eye to fix their relative values and importance. With beauty on every hand it is difficult to choose what is best, and what is most pleasing is largely a matter of taste.

As a whole the exhibition was most illuminating marking another advance in the art and application of ceramic design, more graceful lines, finer color harmonies, a better adaptation of decoration to the forms and purposes of the pieces adorned seems to characterize each succeeding exhibition. The present assemblage left a general impression of enamels in hues restrained and

refined, of etched gold and touches of luster and of patterns leaning toward the conventional.

The naturalistic designs appeared to run to softer effects, and more poetic arrangements than formerly, although there were some unusually good examples of a free use of bright natural colors. The conventional pieces too, had their proportion of really gorgeous patterns, in rich Oriental shades applied in heavy all-over effects and in matte, black backgrounds upon which were contrasted flower and fruit arrangements in delicate or lively tones.

The ceramic craft from all over the country was represented in this showing, so that a careful observer might gain a fairly accurate impression of the state of taste and the development of talent along this line in America. This impression, too, would be most reassuring, for the quality of the work exhibited was uniformly excellent and the

range of ideas expressed was wide and interesting. Evidently each exhibition bears fruit in the next, for one can note the improvement and the rise of certain tendencies from year to year.

Burleys is, of all places, the most appropriate, and yet the most exacting in which to exhibit hand decorated china; appropriate because the whole institution is devoted to china in its varied forms and to allied branches of fine tableware; exacting because the display in the white china department is unconsciously subjected in the mind of the observer to a contrast with the wealth of the world in porcelain to be studied upon other floors of this establishment. The recent exhibition, however, stood the latter test nobly, without need of excuse or allowance being made for native artists in this line.

Students and teachers appreciate these exhibitions to their fullest extent and the general public is beginning to appreciate what they mean to the advancement of the art and the opportunity which they present for securing some very lovely things on the most favorable terms.

Our illustrations show groups of some of

the prize winners which it will be interesting to examine in detail. Mrs. Ralph Park of Chicago captured the first prize for conventional decoration with a round chop plate or fruit platter and a set of smaller plates to match it. These were adorned with some very lovely trumpeted flowers in blue enamel and conventional motifs in blue and red which divided the plate into five panels. A strong gold border outlined the plates and brilliant color was introduced in geometrical interlacings of dark and light blue, green and pink lavender, with an accenting note of red. The chop plate had a center field of flowers completing the composition.

The second prize fell to Mrs. J. W. Shaw for a mixing bowl of rare beauty overlaid with ovals bordered in black and filled with flowers, in pink, blue, lavender and yellow with green leaves, upon a background of vines and green gold leaves outlined with gold upon a tint of Satsuma color. Miss Frances E. Newman of Minneapolis, Minnesota, captured the third prize with a handsome paneled water jug in pale green, yellow and black decoration on a creamy gray background.



PRIZE WINNERS IN THE NATURALISTIC CLASS  
OF DECORATION

—Courtesy Burley & Company



SOME CHOICE EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE DECORATION

—Courtesy Burley &amp; Company

Honorable mention was accorded a chocolate pot, cups and saucers submitted by Miss Florence McCray of Garden City, Kansas. This set was exquisitely lovely and suggested some of the finer work of the Japanese. The pieces were covered with a flat coat of soft creamy tan and the only ornament were etched gold bands with pine cones and leaves in gold and silver. Honorable mention was also given to a large chop dish, gold covered and exquisitely etched by Mr. Otto Trepte.

In the Naturalistic decoration the first prize was awarded to the Ursuline Sisters of Tiffin, Ohio, who exhibited a really wonderful little boudoir lamp which was as poetic as its inspiration. The Sister submitting it explained that the design had been suggested by a poem she had read upon butterflies. The entire background of the lamp and shade had been covered with a lusterless matte black, like the sable robes of the cloister. Upon this appeared a variety of moths and butterflies in tones of rose and blue, mulberry and gray against a background of gold spider webs. The interior of the shade, which was opaque, had been covered with a golden luster which

would indeed shed a mellow light upon a book of poems perused at bedtime.

The second prize in the Naturalistic class was accorded to Mr. E. J. Mulvaney for a chop dish and half a dozen plates decorated in full size roses, each plate having been arranged in different colors and upon a different background, yet the whole harmonizing in a complete and satisfactory set. The third prize fell to the lot of Miss E. Winans of Aurora, Illinois, who exhibited several interesting pieces, a serving tray with a pale blue and yellow atmospheric background and a decoration of roses in pale and deeper pink and soft yellow proving most successful. Honorable mention in the Naturalistic class attached to the work of Mrs. L. C. Butcher, and Mr. W. R. Scholtz of Chicago. Mrs. Butcher submitted a bonbon dish among other pieces, ornamental entirely in grays. A rose decoration carried out in tones of this color is unusual enough to warrant comment. A small Egyptian lamp from the same studio covered entirely in black and decorated with a floral design in deep pink was characterized by a bold use of color and gold. The colonial tea set of Mr. W. R. Scholtz presented panels

framed in gold bands and paste dots with decorations in small roses.

Not the least interesting articles in the exhibition were some of the displays which were not submitted for competition, among which we might mention the work of Mrs. A. A. Frazee of Chicago which was characterized by a wonderful use of enamels in conventionalized borders. A tray with this decoration had a gray centerfield and a white open outlined border with lines of darker gray and traces of gold. A bowl in the same manner had round panels filled with fruit in indescribably lovely grayish purples, soft pinks, delicate yellows and refined orange tones.

Mrs. LeRoy T. Steward of Chicago contributed a fine chop plate covered by three panels of conventionalized flowers. This

plate had an intricate border of blue and gold connected with the center motive by radiating divisions of very close decoration.

Mr. E. Challinor, twice winner of the first prize, forbore from competing at this exhibition, although he displayed some beautiful plates in landscape effects, presenting sunset, moonlight, morning and afternoon. The plate depicting morning was exquisite in tones of rose and gray, blending to lavender, with tall trees standing in a shadowy background and a blooming rosebush in the foreground.

The pupils of the Art Institute made a creditable showing of good work in enamel and etched gold borders, the designs being chaste and elegant and the colors quiet and restrained.



EXHIBITION OF WORK OF  
MRS. WALTER DIXON OF KOKOMO, INDIANA

—Courtesy Burley & Company